The MoBSE's Response to COVID-19

Lamin Fatajo
Director, Regional Education Directorate Two
Pre-COVID-19 Public Emergency Arrangement

Pre-COVID-19 arrangement to handling the Pandemic involved

- Senior Management Team (SMT) held a meeting to discuss the Ministry's Responses to the Government's Declaration of Public Emergency

- Multisectoral Emergency Team established to advise SMT
  - comprises Development Partners, including the Gambian Teachers Union (GTU), EFNet, UNESCO, UNICEF etc.
  - Developed strategies of responses to Government State of Public Emergency
    - The use multimedia to conduct Distant-learning lesson and Communication Unit as the Coordinating body
    - The agreement to engage Television and Radio stations in lesson delivery
    - To facilitate the MoBSE Television Station to take the lead in delivering lessons
    - To engage the Development partners to implement the distant-learning programme
Pre-COVID-19 Public Emergency Arrangements

Discuss curriculum delivery strategies for post Public Emergency using

• Extensive and intensive approaches to Curriculum Recovery
  • Restrategized lesson delivery in post-CONVID-19
  • Rescheduled the WASSCE and GABECE examinations
  • Extended days, weeks and term for schools
  • Intensive lessons for examination classes

• Engage bilateral and multilateral partners, both local and international, in financing the programme
During Public Emergency Activities

- Communication Unit facilitating the recording and broadcasting of lesson (archive of Recorded Lessons)
- Negotiate with the Television and Radio stations, and their associations to delivery the Recorded lessons.
  - Agreed to a common fee at reduced rates
  - Two broadcasts (2 hours each (10:00 to 12:00 and 16:00 to 18:00) daily
  - Concurrently deliver the same lessons on all Radio and TV stations
  - 7 Radio stations and 27 Television Stations are involved
  - 500 lessons produced ranging from ECD to SSE
  - 103 Technical Production team from coordination to content developers and recorders
- Child-protection activities
  - Public awareness at intervals of lessons
  - Distribution of posters in communities countrywide
  - Interviews on radio and television programmes on the sectors interventions
  - Keeping children and teachers safe at the home
Challenges

The pandemic situation was an uncertainty for the sector and therefore came with the following challenges:

• Inadequate logistical need to effectively running of the programme
• Inadequate financial support
• Capacity of teachers as first time experience to initially deliver the lesson
• Demand for the inclusion of other subjects in the programme
• Some family incompliance to staying home and following the programme
• The accessibility of radio and television in some remote communities
• Managing teachers eagerness to return to school
• Curriculum recovery by the teachers after the pandemic
• The foreseen difficulties of exiting of the examination classes and the enrolment of new intakes
Thanks for your attention